



MUSICAL THEATER SONGWRITING CHALLENGE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING.
Collaborators are Disney Theatrical Productions and
Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals company.

AKIRA SKY

Coaching Team

MENTOR: J. Oconer Navarro

An award-winning writer, music director, arranger, pianist, vocal coach, and educator. J. Oconer Navarro is based in NYC. *Awakening*, his musical based on the novella by Kate Chopin was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Music Theater Conference, the Yale Institute of Music Theatre, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre, and recipient of the Margo Lion Award. *Onward*, a musical triptych was developed by Prospect Theater Company and played Off-Broadway's 59E59 Theaters.

J. is recognized for his work in music direction with credits that include Broadway Music Department: *Curtains*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Mary Poppins*, *Next To Normal*. Off-Broadway credits include *First Daughter Suite* (The Public Theater), *Iowa* (Playwrights Horizons), *Adding Machine* (Minetta Lane Theatre; Lortel, Obie, and Outer Critics Circle Awards), *Summer and Smoke* (Transport Group/Classic Stage Company). Regional credits include *My Scary Girl* (Barrington Stage Company), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Once On This Island*, *Ragtime* (Hangar Theatre), *Barrio Grrr!* (The Kennedy Center; Helen Hayes Nomination).

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Anna Ebbesen

Ebbesen has made a career commitment to fostering new voices in the industry. Her orchestrations can be heard on over 20 original movie musicals currently on the film festival circuit, including scores by Zoe Sarnak (2018 Jonathan Larson Award), Anna K. Jacobs (7 Helen Hayes nominations) and Avi Amon (2019 Jonathan Larson Award). She is the music director for the New York Youth Symphony Musical Theatre Composition Program. Recent premieres: *Mary & Max* (Bobby Cronin) at Theatre Calgary and *We Were Everywhere* (Avi Amon) at Princeton.